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**From:** Higuchi, Dean  
**Sent:** Sat 8/8/2015 8:58:01 PM  
**Subject:** Talking points for Call -

**Got this from Harry Allen**

## **EPA Region 9 Activities**

### **Background on Navajo impacts**

The discharge water plume was identified this morning entering the San Juan at confluence w Animas River.

The discharge has yet to cross the Navajo Nation boundary, near Hogback, but Navajo officials have reacted quickly, assesing their water intake systems and issuing a precautionary "do not use" public service annoucement regarding tap water.

Region 9 reached out to Navajo EPA officials and subsequently were requested assist with ambient river sampling in the San Juan River.

The Navajo EPA surface water monitoring program (Shiprock Office) collected water and sediment samples from the San Juan River Friday and Saturday - prior to the spill impact.

NNEPA also requested drinking water sampling support immediately for Navajo operated water intakes.

DW intakes from feeder canals are not expected to be impacted but were closed as a precaution. A third intake in Mexican Hat UT is off line.

## **Staffing**

Region 9 deployed 2 START contractors to coordinate and assist them with sample collection and lab services and will assist in creating a sampling Task Force with NNEPA, Navajo water agencies and potentially the Bureau of Reclamation.

Region 9 also is deploying an OSC Rob Wise to Durango to coordinate Navajo sampling Task Force updates and results with the Region 8 incident command post and will ensure command messages get back to Navajo officials in this early phase of the response.

OSC Randy Nattis will deploy to the Navajo Nation in Farmington on Monday to coordinate additional field activities. Other Region 9 staff may assist with these roles including a drinking water expert perhaps.

Region 9 will also deploy a Public Information Officer (PIO) Rusty Harris-Bishop to participate in a Joint Information Center (JIC), presently in Durango, with and other the affected Federal, State, County and Tribal agencies.

CIC Secody Hubbard should be deploying Sunday to Farmington.

Thanks!

Dean Higuchi

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